UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/820
22 December 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 105

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Larbi DJACTA (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 9th, 10th, 12th to 14th, 16th, 20th, 22nd, 24th and 38th meetings, on 24 and 31 October, 4, 8 and 9, 11, 17, 21 and 28 November and 22 December 1994. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/49/SR.9, 10, 12-14, 16, 20, 22, 24 and 38).

3. At the 9th and 10th meetings, on 24 and 31 October, the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Administration and Management and the Assistant Secretary-General for Conference and Support Services made introductory statements (A/C.5/49/SR.9 and 10).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 31 October, the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit presented the annual report 1/ of the Unit and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts established pursuant to General

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/49/34).

Assembly resolution 48/218 A presented the report (A/49/48) of the Working Group (see A/C.5/49/SR.10).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.28

5. At the 38th meeting, on 22 December, the representative of Mexico, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997" (A/C.5/49/L.28), submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.28 without a vote (see para. 13).

B. Draft decision submitted orally

7. At the 38th meeting, on 22 December, the representative of Mexico, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, made a statement (see A/C.5/49/SR.38).

8. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it defer to its resumed forty-ninth session consideration of agenda item 105, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" (see para. 14, draft decision I).

C. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.19

9. At its 38th meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" (A/C.5/49/L.19) submitted by the Chairman.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/49/L.19 without a vote (see para. 14, draft decision II).

D. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.20

11. At the 38th meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1995-1996" (A/C.5/49/L.20) submitted by the Chairman.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/49/L.20 without a vote (see para. 14, draft decision III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

13. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, by which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 2/ and the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination 3/ and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 4/

1. Reaffirms that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of (a) a preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium; (b) priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature; (c) real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget; and (d) the size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

2. Reaffirms also that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote a greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

3. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 on the basis of the total preliminary estimate provided by the Advisory Committee of 2,574,000,000 United States dollars at the initial 1994-1995 rates, recosted to 2,548,400,000 dollars at revised 1994-1995 rates and taking into account also actual expenditure data as available for 1994;

5. Notes that the preliminary estimate includes a provision to reinforce backstopping of peace-keeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General, in

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2/ A/49/310.

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/49/16 (Part II)).

4/ A/49/796 and Corr.1.

preparing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, to base his request on such decisions as the General Assembly may take on the question of criteria for sharing the costs of backstopping peace-keeping operations;

6. Decides that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate at 1996-1997 rates, namely, at 20.6 million dollars;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, information on the nature of expenses charged to the contingency fund thus far, as requested by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

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14. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

The General Assembly decides to defer to its resumed forty-ninth session consideration of agenda item 105, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

DRAFT DECISION II

Documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

The General Assembly decides to defer to its resumed forty-ninth session consideration of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on jurisdictional and procedural mechanisms for proper management of resources and funds of the United Nations; 5/

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Management of buildings in the United Nations system"; 6/

5/ A/49/98 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

6/ A/49/560.

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Staff turnover and delays in recruitment (the lapse factor)"; 7/

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the use of retirees in the United Nations Secretariat; 8/

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on reforms of the administration of justice in the Secretariat; 9/

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the modalities and costs of staff representation since 1992; 10/

(g) First report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 11/

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of travel and related entitlements for staff members of the United Nations; 12/

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on the publications policy of the United Nations; 13/

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on office accommodation at Geneva; 14/

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for conference services at Vienna; 15/

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on staff assessment and the Tax Equalization Fund; 16/

7/ A/49/564.

8/ A/C.5/49/___.

9/ A/C.5/49/___.

10/ A/C.5/49/___.

11/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/49/7).

12/ A/C.5/48/83.

13/ A/C.5/48/10.

14/ A/C.5/48/29.

15/ A/C.5/49/24.

16/ A/48/932.

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts; 17/

(n) Report of the Secretary-General on special representatives, envoys and related positions; 18/

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations telecommunications system; 19/

(p) Report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: pension scheme for the members of the International Court of Justice; 20/

(q) Report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and allowances of the members of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991; 21/

(r) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission; 22/

(s) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia; 23/

(t) Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of administration and management of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia; 24/

(u) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991; 25/

17/ A/49/339 and Corr.1.

18/ A/C.5/49/50.

19/ A/C.5/49/26.

20/ A/C.5/49/8.

21/ A/C.5/49/11.

22/ A/49/___.

23/ A/49/714.

24/ A/49/___.

25/ A/49/810.

(v) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia; 26/

(w) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador. 27/

DRAFT DECISION III

Biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1995-1996

The General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 6 of its resolution 46/220 of 20 December 1991, approves the biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1995-1996 annexed hereto.

Annex

BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE FIFTH COMMITTEE FOR 1995-1996

A. Programme of work for 1995

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

3. Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

4. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 28/

5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

6. Joint Inspection Unit

7. Pattern of conferences

8. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

9. United Nations common system

26/ A/49/521.

27/ A/49/___.

28/ Under this item, the Committee is to consider the proposed programme budget for the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board.

10. Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

11. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

12. Report of the Economic and Social Council

13. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

B. Programme of work for 1996

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

3. Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

4. Programme planning

5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

6. Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

7. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

8. Pattern of conferences

9. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

10. Human resource management

11. United Nations common system

12. United Nations pension system

13. Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

14. Report of the Economic and Social Council

15. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

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